

REMARKS

Claims 49-59 are pending, of which Claims 49 and 59 are independent. Claims 56 and 58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 49-57 and 59 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Publication No. 2001/0011270 to Himmelstein in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,182,068 to Culliss. This rejection is respectfully traversed. For the reasons set forth below, Claims 49-59 are in condition for allowance.

In response to the Examiner's request that the Applicant cite support for the tablet and offline features set forth in the claim amendments made in the amendment filed June 14, 2007, the paragraphs provided below cite example sections of the application as filed providing support for these claim amendments. Applicant notes that in the previous amendment filed June 14, 2007, cited support from the application was provided, but the citations corresponded to paragraph numbers from the published version of the present application. The citations provided below, however, now correspond to the page and line numbers of the application as filed.

Claim 49 specifies that a searchable index is stored locally on a tablet device and that this searchable index is stored locally (accessible offline) without accessing the computer network (the Internet). Support for this limitation can be found throughout the application as originally filed, at least at page 68, line 24; page 69, lines 4 through 13; page 69, line 27 though page 70, line 2; page 75, line 22 though 28; page 76, line 26 through page 77, line 11; page 87, lines 21 though line 27; and page 93, line 24.

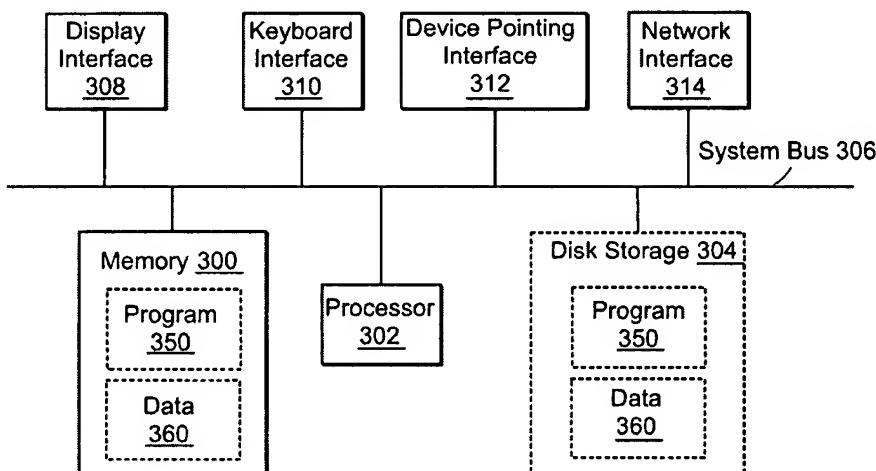
For example, at page 87, lines 21 though line 27, the application states that “[a]n embodiment of the present invention comprises a method of using geographic data and other business attributes to isolate a select number of domains which are then spidered . . . **to create an indexed subset of data from the Internet** providing significant concurrency of data and which can then be . . . **stored offline to be accessed later in a tablet or other wireless device without the requirement of access to the Internet.**” (Emphasis added).

In view of the citations to claim limitation support in the application as filed set forth above, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to drawings for not showing the claimed “tablet device, searching without the computer network.” In response, Claims 49 and 59 are amended to clarify that the computer network is the Internet, and that the tablet stores the geographically bounded network data to be accessible offline. As discussed in the application, at page 87, lines 21 through line 27, the tablet is described as a wireless device that stores the indexed subset of geographically bounded Internet data offline. Wireless devices, for instance, are described in the application as a local device (e.g. a computing device with a hard drive). For example, as described in the application at page 76, line 26 through page 77, line 11, “One preferred embodiment of the PI is to have the entire bounded region (content and index) downloaded to a local device, such as a hard drive, . . . and this device could be . . . wireless. The device would likely have a gps and a internet connection but these are not required. . . The user could then view the data offline with richness of bandwidth, and full 24.times.7 immediate access. . . . The data downloaded would be compressed and indexed to maximize storage capacity.”

FIG. 8 shown below illustrates the general architecture of such a computing device (e.g. a computing device with a hard drive storing geographically bounded data, which, as described in the application, can be stored locally, offline on a tablet / local wireless computing device). The example computer shown below includes a hard drive for storing the geographically bounded data 360 locally.



The computing device can, for example, connect to the Internet or the peer-to-peer network in order to access and to store the indexed subset of geographically bounded Internet

data. Once the subset of geographically bounded data is stored on this computer, it is accessible offline, thus, creating an offline geographically bounded virtual internet that is accessible without accessing the Internet, and can be used, for example, by a traveler. Examples of computing devices with such a hard drive for storing the geographically bounded data locally (which are described in an embodiment of the application as a tablet / GPS wireless device, local computing device, and claimed in the present application as such a tablet device) are shown in FIGs. 1-7 (e.g. computing devices 202-216 of FIG. 2).

Furthermore, there are various embodiments and figures showing examples where the computing device is a handheld (such as a tablet or Palm with GPS capability) that includes a touch screen interface displaying a map linking to the locally stored indexed websites of restaurants, shops, etc. that are in geographically bounded region. See the application as originally filed, for example, at pages 69, line 27 through page 94, line 10; see map interfaces at FIGs. 14-16, 18 and 19. As described in the application at page 69, line 27 through page 70, line 2, "data sorting by geography" and "the displaying of URL's on a map" are "**the foundation for the tablet devices that would contain subsets of the web for travelers. . .**"

In view of the clarifications to the claims and the example computing devices with a hard drive (e.g. wireless tablet devices) for storing data locally that are shown in the figures, as well as interface screenshots of maps that can be depicted, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be reconsidered and withdrawn. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections

Claims 56 and 58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for insufficient antecedent basis. This rejection is respectfully traversed. In response, Claims 56 and 58 are amended by the present amendment to provide sufficient antecedent basis. Reconsideration is of the § 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Claim Rejections

Claims 49-57 and 59 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Publication No. 2001/0011270 to Himmelstein in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,182,068 to Culliss. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For explanation, but without limitation to the claims, certain embodiments will be described. A group of computers are identified that are associated with a common geographic location. Distributed processing tasks for indexing websites that are associated with the location can be allocated to the group of computers. By grouping computers together and assigning these computers similar processing tasks to create a geographically bounded network, distributed processing tasks can be assigned according to a rational process, thereby increasing resource efficiency and facilitating the development of a geographically bounded community. Further, by storing and indexing geographically bounded content on a computer, such as a tablet device, and making this content available offline, a user has the ability to use the tablet device while traveling without connecting to the Internet. The user can use the tablet device to find out information about businesses that are located within the geographically bounded region, e.g. the physical location of the tablet device. In this way, advertisements for a business can be generated when the tablet device is physically located near that business.

By way of contrast, Himmelstein relates to an approach to improving searching by geocoding web pages. Although Himmelstein determines which websites are related to a specific geographic region, Himmelstein does not even consider creating a searchable index of geographically bounded data. Moreover, Himmelstein does not relate the claimed approach of distributing indexing tasks to a plurality of computers. Furthermore, Himmelstein does not relate to the claimed system, which creates this geographically bounded index and stores it offline for accessing without being connected to a network.

Cullis relates to an approach to monitoring search activity in order to organize and rank articles for future users. Like Himmelstein, Cullis neither relates to the claimed geographically bounded searchable index, nor does Cullis relate to the claimed geographically bounded network that is accessible offline, without accessing a computer network.

The Examiner cites col. 11, lines 11-33 of Cullis to show the claimed offline feature. However, this section of Cullis relates to performing relevancy computations offline, which are

used to update a user's relevancy score for queries. The notion of performing computations offline is unrelated to the present invention, which stores a subset of the Internet (i.e. geographically bounded websites) offline so that users (e.g. travellers) can access this information when they are, for example, travelling and do not have access to the Internet.

In fact, neither Himmelstein nor Cullis, taken alone or in combination, address the problems related to users (e.g. tourists, travellers, etc.) that want to access the Internet to find out about businesses (e.g. restaurants) physically located in a particular geographical location, while they are en route and, thus, neither Himmelstein nor Cullis discuss the solutions presented in the claimed invention, which enables computers to index online documents related to a particular geographical region and stores the indexed geographical bounded documents on a computer that allows the indexed to be accessed on a computing device offline, without accessing a computer network.

Moreover, the Examiner suggests it is well known to create such a searchable index of geographically bounded data for offline retrieval. It is respectfully submitted that this concept is not well known. In fact, it is typically considered ill advised in the prior art to make a subset of the Internet available offline, for fear that this information will become stale. However, the present invention provides a distributed processing approach for indexing the geographically bounded sites, and this technique helps ensure that the information indexed is updated.

Thus, neither reference, taken alone or in combination, discusses the limitations of the claimed invention, namely:

- creating and maintaining a list of attribute bounded electronic addresses representing a plurality of indexable electronic documents, on a computer network, that are associated with a geographically bounded region, where the computer network is the Internet;
- identifying a plurality of computers associated with the geographically bounded region;
- in response to receiving a geographically bounded request from one of the computers, assigning one or more geographically bounded electronic addresses from the geographically bounded list;

- sending the assigned geographically bounded electronic address to the requesting computer, where the requesting computer processes the assigned geographically bounded electronic address to index one or more electronic documents that are obtained through the assigned geographically bounded electronic address;
- creating a geographically bounded searchable index of the electronic documents that are obtained through the assigned geographically bounded electronic address; and
- storing the geographically bounded searchable index locally on a local hard drive of a tablet device, where the geographically bounded searchable index is accessible offline from the local device without accessing the computer network,

as set forth in Claim 49 and similarly set forth in Claim 59. As such, it is respectfully requested that the §103 rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Concord, MA 01742-9133
Date: October 31, 2007